

PINAREE SANPITAK : *MA-LAI*



We are pleased to present *Ma-lai*, Pinaree Sanpitak's third solo exhibition with Tyler Rollins Fine Art, taking place from September 10 through October 24, 2015. Pinaree is one of the most compelling and respected Thai artists of her generation, and her work can be counted among the most powerful explorations of women's experience in all of Southeast Asia. Her primary inspiration over the past twenty-five years has been the female body, distilled to its most basic forms and imbued with an ethereal spirituality. Her work in a wide variety of media – painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, performance, and culinary arts, to name but a few – is informed by a quiet minimalism that owes something to her training in Japan and sets it apart from the colorful intensity of much Thai art. Often called a feminist or Buddhist artist, she resists such easy categorizations, preferring to let her work speak to each viewer directly, to the heart and soul, with the most basic language of form, color, and texture.

The exhibition centers on a hanging fabric installation, alongside a related series of paintings and sculptures, all taking inspiration from *ma-lai* floral garlands, which play a symbolic role in Thai ceremonial occasions from birth to death, from exuberant celebrations to quiet personal contemplation. It is an art form originally taught to women in the Thai royal court, who created intricate designs of great refinement. Pinaree's installation, with its large-scale garlands that are at once delicate and monumental, evokes the female body, intimately linked to a sense of the enduring bonds of cultural traditions, family, and spirituality. "*Ma-lai* is a subtle comment on the conditions of life, not only to cherish the wonders but also to pay respect to the struggles and losses," Pinaree explains. "I started working with *ma-lai* over a year ago, finding a way to transform small fabric pieces into petal patterns, and it finally evolved into three different elements, starting with the geometrical construction of *ma-lai* in toile, then the organic paintings in acrylic with pencil and dried flowers, and the cast metal sculptures of my *breast cloud* forms connected with garlands of actual flowers. The 'body' of *ma-lai* transforms, portraying certain mindsets and emotions."

Pinaree's work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions in Asia and Europe over the past twenty years, and she has participated in major biennials in Australia, Italy, Japan, and Korea. A selection of her works from 1995-2013 was recently seen in a solo exhibition at the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation in Sydney, Australia (2014). In 2013, she presented two solo exhibitions at US museums: at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, featuring her large-scale installation, *Hanging By a Thread*; and at the Contemporary Austin, with another large-scale installation, *Temporary Insanity*, which was also exhibited in the artist's solo exhibition at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia (2012). At the 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012) she showed a large-scale installation, *Anything Can Break*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. Subsequently on view at the Toledo Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio (2014-15), the installation comprises thousands of origami "flying cubes" and breast-shaped glass clouds suspended from the ceiling, with musical motifs triggered by motion sensors in response to the audience's movements. Stainless steel sculptures from her *Breast Stupa Topiary* series were featured in the group exhibition, *Female Power*, at the Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands (2013) and are currently on view in front of ILHAM art gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

EXHIBITION DATES: September 10 – October 24, 2015

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

PINAREE SANPITAK

Born 1961 in Bangkok, Thailand. Lives and works in Bangkok.

EDUCATION

1986 B.F.A in Visual Arts and Communication Design, School of Fine Arts and Design, University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Ma-lai*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
Anything Can Break, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH.
- 2014 *Collection +: Pinaree Sanpitak*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.
- 2013 *Hanging by a Thread*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA.
Temporary Insanity, The Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX.
- 2012 *Temporary Insanity*, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
Hanging by a Thread, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
- 2011 *Body Borders*, The Art Center at Chulalongkorn University, H Gallery, and 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2010 *Paper Traces and Flying Cubes*, Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan.
Quietly Floating, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
- 2009 *Breasts, Clouds, and Vessels*, Gallerie Alain le Gaillard, Paris, France.
- 2005 *Jedis Vessels and Cooking*, The Borderline Event - The Castle; Breast Stupa Cookery collaborations with local patisseries and Aula Gastronomica de l'Emporda, La Bisbal d'Emporda, Girona, Spain.
- 2004 *Temporary Insanity*, The Art Center at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2003 *Noon-Nom*, Discovery Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
Noon-Nom & Vessels, Babilonia 1808, Berkeley, CA.
- 2001 *Vessels and Mounds*, The National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
"Shibui" - Breast Stupas, Seinan Gakuin University Library, Fukuoka, Japan (on view annually).
- 1997 *Eggs, Breasts, Bodies, I, Etcetera*, The Art Center, Centers of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University.
- 1994 *Breast Works*, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1988 *Pinaree Sanpitak: an Exhibition of Photographs, Paintings, and Collages*, Central Plaza Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA.
Open Sea, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France.
- 2014 *Insight: Contemporary Sensory Works, Anything Can Break*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH.
Sensorium 360°, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
- 2013 *Female Power*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands.
Cartographies, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
- 2012 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
- 2011 *Here / Not Here: Buddha Presence in Eight Recent Works*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.
Negotiating Home, History, and Nation: Two Decades of Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia, 1991-2011, Singapore Art Museum.
- 2010 *Artists Scarecrows Rice Paddy*, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
Roundabout, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2009 *Emotional Drawings*, SOMA Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea.
2009 Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea.
- 2008 *Emotional Drawings*, Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Museum of Modern Art Kyoto, Japan.
"Expenditure" Busan Biennale 2008, Museum of Modern Art Busan, South Korea.
Traces of Siamese Smile: Art+Faith+Politics+Love, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
Breast Stupa Cookery with Higashiya and Le Bain, Le Bain, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2006 *Breast Stupa Cookery / Artery Exhibition Opening*, SMU Singapore Management University, Singapore.
Tout à Fait Thai: Thai Art Festival Paris 2006, Mairie du 6^e, St. Sulpice, Paris, France.
- 2005 *600 Images / 60 Artists / 6 Curators / 6 Cities*, Bangkok / Berlin / London / Los Angeles / Manila / Saigon.
Soi Project / Yokohama Triennale 2005, Yokohama, Japan.
- 2002 *36 Ideas from Asia - Contemporary South-East Asian Art*, Singapore Art Museum European Touring Exhibition.
The 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale 2002, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.
The 2nd Women's Art Festival, East Asian Women and Herstories, Women's History Exhibition Hall, Seoul Women's Community Center, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2001 *A Shriek from an Invisible Box*, The Meguro Museum, Tokyo, Japan.
AsiaArt 2001/Labyrinths - Asian Contemporary Art - Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea, Contemporary Art Museum of Genoa, Italy.
- 1999 *The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.
- 1997 *Glimpses into the Future: Art in Southeast Asia 1997*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.
- 1996 *The Spiritual and the Social*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

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| The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, California, USA. | Singapore Art Museum, Singapore. |
| Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, North Carolina, USA. | Lenzi-Morisot Foundation, Singapore - France. |
| Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, Washington, USA. | Bangkok University, Bangkok, Thailand. |
| Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia | Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. |
| Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey. | Misiem Yipintsoi Sculpture Garden, Thailand. |
| Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan | Ministry of Culture, Thailand. |
| Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan. | The Queen's Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok, Thailand. |
| Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan. | ILHAM Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. |
| Earl Lu Gallery, La Salle - SIA College of the Arts, Singapore. | |